

Vacancy Announcement #DPO00-032CRJ/ADB

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: **Interdisciplinary Engineer / Scientist:** General Engineer, PD-801/Band 2; Fire Protection Engineer, PD-804/Band 2; Materials Engineer, PD-806/Band 2; Mechanical Engineer, PD-830/Band 2; Electrical Engineer, PD-850/Band 2; Chemical Engineer, PD-893/Band 2; Physical Scientist, PD-1301/Band 2; Physicist, PD-1310/Band 2; Chemist, PD-1320/Band 2; Metallurgist, PD-1321/Band 2

(BAND 2 is equivalent to GS-11/12; salary range \$42,724 to \$68,897 per annum, Includes Locality payment for Washington Metropolitan area).

NOTES: **This position is covered by a Title 5 exemption authority, a special authority approved for the Department of the Treasury by Congress for a Demonstration Project to provide increased regulatory flexibilities in hiring and paying employees, including a broad banded system and pay for performance.**

Security clearance required

More than one selection may be made from this announcement.

LOCATION: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Office of Science and Technology
Laboratory Services
Fire Research Laboratory
Rockville, Maryland

OPENING DATE: June 27, 2000 **CLOSING DATE:** Open Until Filled
(Initial cut-off date-July 28, 2000)

AREA OF CONSIDERATION: All sources and Veterans who are preference eligible or who have been separated from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous active service may apply. Competitive examining authority has been delegated to the ATF by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Non-status applications will be forwarded to the Delegated Examining Unit or the Pay Demonstration Project Office for rating, ranking and referral. Career or Career Conditional candidates who wish to be rated under both merit promotion and competitive procedures must submit two complete applications. If only one application is received it will be considered under merit promotion.

DUTIES: This position is located in the Fire Research Laboratory within the Office of Science and Technology. The incumbent serves as a specialist in fire science and testing of forensic evidence from criminal investigations. The scientist/engineer serves as a subject area expert in one or more specialized areas such as computer fire modeling, temperature measurement, heat transfer, fluid mechanics or fire dynamics, and maintains a broad based knowledge of all areas of fire and forensic science.

MAJOR DUTIES:

- Performs engineering, chemical and physical analyses and tests to provide information requested and to solve problems. Samples received are for testing and evaluation are complex and without precedent and usually require methods development and/or modification.

- Receives physical evidence, reviews background material submitted with the evidence, pertinent agency regulations, Federal laws and regulations, manuals and scientific literature to determine the general approach necessary to develop the requested information. Develops, adapts, and/or modifies the approaches, methods and procedures.
- Performs examination, which usually require both computer modeling procedures and instrumental/measurement procedures such as oxygen consumption calorimetry, combustion gas analysis, smoke measurement/movement, heat flux, infrared spectrometry, etc.
- Interprets and evaluates the results of analyses to determine their validity and scientific significance and to ensure that all relevant questions are answered.
- Draws conclusions and takes final action on evidence submissions. Conclusions and actions are based on the physical examination of the evidence as well as interpretation of the analytical results. Prepares laboratory reports that support the conclusion.
- Identifies need for development of information, new methods or novel approaches to address trends and/or problems. Plans, organizes and conducts studies to meet these needs.
- Evaluates new technology and scientific equipment for adoption or acquisition by Laboratory Services.
- Serves as an advisor to various outside interests, such as other Federal and state law enforcement agencies, concerning methodology problems in the specialty area.
- Participates in crime scene processing and provides instruction to investigating officers on fire spread and fire dynamics at the scene.
- Testifies in courts of law on cases examined and instructs prosecuting attorneys on the evidentiary value or significance of the results of examination.

LEVEL OF AUTHORITY: The incumbent plans and carries out the work, resolving conflicts, coordinating with others and interpreting policy as necessary. The supervisor is informed of new developments and potentially controversial matters. Completed work is accepted as technically correct and is reviewed from an overall standpoint in terms of effectiveness in meeting objectives and standard protocols.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must meet all qualifications, including band requirements, **within 30 days of the closing date of this announcement.** Applicants must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade/band in the Federal service. Specialized experience is experience which is directly related to the duties of the position to be filled and which has equipped the candidate with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position. In addition the following are requirements:

SELECTIVE PLACEMENT FACTORS:

1. ***“Have experience working on multidisciplinary team developing and applying technical solutions to resolve scientific or engineering problems”***

Justification: FRL staff members will be required to work with a variety of technical (i.e. various scientific/engineering specialties) and non-technical (i.e. attorneys, special agents) personnel in many field and lab situations. They are expected to apply technical problem solving skills/knowledge, while factoring in the effect/concerns of the other disciplines, as well as their objectives/needs associated with the specific problem.

2. ***“Have experience developing and implementing test plans in various environments”***

Justification: FRL staff will be required to develop and implement test plans for all fire testing conducted in the Fire Research Center. The staff needs to have a good understanding and experience in developing test plans in a laboratory environment. FRL staff will routinely respond to NRTs and other fire investigation scenarios, as well as conduct testing in the Fire Research Center. The staff needs to have a good understanding and experience with fire tests and the use of computer fire modeling. Both fire testing and computer modeling have field and lab applications.

Basic Requirements:

General Engineer, PD-801, Fire Protection Engineer, PD-804, Materials Engineer, PD-806, Mechanical Engineer, PD-830, Electrical Engineer PD-850, Chemical Engineer, PD-893

Experience equivalent to GS-9 grade level within Band 2: 2 years or progressively higher level graduate education leading to a master's degree or master's or equivalent graduate degree and/or 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-7 grade level.

Experience equivalent to GS-11 grade level within Band 2: 3 years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to a Ph.D. degree or Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree and/or 1 year equivalent to the GS-9 grade level.

To qualify for series listed below, applicants must meet additional requirements:

Physical Scientist, PD-1301

A. Candidates must have a full 4-year course of study in physical science, engineering, or mathematics that included 24 semester hours in physical science and/or related engineering science such as mechanics, dynamics, properties of materials and electronics.

Or

B. Combination of education and experience-education equivalent to one of the majors shown in A above that included at least 24 semester hours in physical science and/or related engineering science, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Physicist, PD-1310

A. Candidates must have completed a full 4-year course of study in physics, or related degree that included at least 24 semester hours in physics.

Or

B. Combination of education and experience – courses equivalent to a major in physics totaling at least 24 semester hours, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

In either A or B above, the courses must have included a fundamental course in general physics and, in addition, courses in any two of the following: electricity and magnetism, heat, light, mechanics, modern physics and sound.

Chemist, PD-1320

A. Candidates must have completed a full 4-year course of study in physical sciences, life sciences or engineering that included 30 semester hours in chemistry, supplemented by course work in mathematics through differential and integral calculus and at least 6 semester hours of physics.

Or

B. Combination of education and experience course work equivalent to a major as shown in A above, including at least 30 semester hours in chemistry, supplemented by mathematics through differential and integral calculus, and at least 6 semester hours of physics, plus appropriate experience or additional

education.

Metallurgist, PD-1321

A. Candidates must have completed a full 4-year course of study in metallurgy or metallurgical engineering that included at least 20 semester hours in metallurgical subjects.

Or

B. Combination of education and experience-courses equivalent to a major, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

EVALUATION METHODS: Status applicants will be evaluated and given points on relevant experience; formal college level education; training and self-development within the past five years; and, the Supplemental Experience Statement. Non-status applicants will be evaluated on relevant experience and the Supplemental Experience Statement. The following factors in the Supplemental Experience Statement will be used as the basis for determining the best-qualified applicants.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIENCE STATEMENT

Describe your work experience, training and/or awards, volunteer experience or hobbies. Provide detailed evidence of each of the factors and show how and when they were used. Include clear, concise examples that show level of accomplishments and degree of responsibility.

1. Experience and demonstrated ability to define problems, perform background research, develop and execute a project plan, conduct testing, organize and evaluate results, and prepare reports of findings.
2. Skill in calibrating, operating, and maintaining sophisticated laboratory instruments such as heat flux gauges, gas analyzers, cone calorimeters, and predictive computer modeling, or other equipment associated with the candidate's discipline or specialty.
3. Knowledge of relevant laws, regulations and guidelines pertaining to fire and forensic evidence, and an understanding of how that evidence is used in a court of law.
4. The incumbent must have the ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing in order to persuade others and to defend findings/recommendations.
5. Knowledge of safety practices for the scientific/engineering discipline and safety requirements associated with work on fire/explosives scenes.

OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- The incumbent may be required to work in EPA Type IV hazardous materials safety equipment (LEVEL A CHEMICAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING).
- The incumbent may be required to work at crime or search warrant scenes. This may require a moderate to high degree of risk inherent to work with fire testing, incendiary devices, or toxic substances.
- Domestic and international travel is regularly required. International travel may be to less developed regions under difficult circumstances as part of a coordinated response to major fire

and explosive incidents.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The following statements are applicable if checked:

- ☐ Pre-employment physical is required.
- ☐ A pre-employment drug test is required.
- ☒ A pre-employment background investigation is required.
- ☒ Incumbent must be a U.S. citizen.
- ☒ Male applicants born after December 31, 1959, must be registered with the Selective Service System.
- ☒ Non-ATF applicants will not be reimbursed for travel and relocation expenses.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Applications will not be returned to applicants.
2. All applicants will be notified by the Personnel Division upon completion of the selection process.
3. Applications must be received by the closing date of this announcement. **The postmarked date will be considered for those persons applying as non-status applicants for "All Sources" announcements.**

HOW TO APPLY

- A. Candidates may submit a resume; SF-171, Application for Federal Employment; or OF-612, Optional Application for Federal Employment. The OF-612 may be obtained by contacting us at the address and telephone number below, or by dialing into the Office of Personnel Management's electronic bulletin board system at 912-757-3100, through Internet, (Telnet connections only at FJOB.Mail.OPM.GOV). The SF-171 is no longer available for distribution. The ATF publishes its vacancy announcements through the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) "Mainstreet" electronic bulletin board system (BBS). To download copies of this vacancy announcement you may dial directly through your modem at 912-757-3100; or connect through the following Internet addresses: fjob.opm.gov for Telnet or www.usajob.opm.gov for Web.

Your application **must** contain the following information:

1. Title series, band and vacancy announcement of the vacancy for which you wish to be considered.
2. Full name, social security number and mailing address.
3. Daytime and evening telephone numbers.
4. For experience most relevant to this position, include name of employer, dates of employment, job title, grade/band (if banded position, GS equivalent), start and end dates and a description of duties and responsibilities.
5. Average hours worked for each position if other than 40 hours per week.
6. Name, location and date of high school and college attended.
7. Type of degree, if any, date received, GPA, major/minor field of study.
8. Relevant training: course titles, dates, number of hours and institutions.
9. Description and year of awards, honors, and special qualifications such as language, computer skills, typing speed.
10. Clear identification of U.S. citizenship.

B. Additional information/completed forms should be submitted, if checked:

- ☒ Written response to the Supplemental Experience Statement.
- ☒ DD-214, if claiming 5 point preference. (For non-status consideration only.)
- ☒ Both DD 214 and SF-15, if claiming 10 point preference. (For non-status consideration only.)

- ☒ College transcripts or lists of college courses.
- ☒ Race and National Origin Identification Form, SF-181 (Optional). Information submitted will be used for statistical reports only.
- ☒ Performance appraisal, dated within the last year. If not submitted, credit will **not** be given for that portion of the evaluation process. (For status consideration only.)
- ☒ Current/former Federal employees - SF-50 reflecting competitive status.
- ☒ Applicants with disability or veterans eligible for non-competitive appointment. Provide appropriate documentation.
- ☒ Competitive examining authority has been delegated to ATF by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Non-status applications will be forwarded to the Delegated Examining Unit for rating, ranking and referral. Status candidates who wish to be rated under both merit promotion and competitive procedures must submit two complete applications.
- ☐ Self-certification for typing proficiency.
- ☒ Self-initiated training and self-development taken within past five years (courses, training sessions or seminars that are three or more days in length.) Provide month/year of class, title and length of class. (For status consideration only.)
- ☒ Position is at the full performance level.

CTAP/ICTAP

Federal employees seeking CTAP/ICTAP eligibility must submit proof that they meet the requirements of 5 CFR 330.605(a). This includes a copy of the agency notice and a copy of their most recent SF-50, noting current position, grade level and duty location. They must be rated well qualified for the position. To be well qualified, CTAP/ICTAP applicants must meet the mid-level range of the crediting plan for all factors.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
 Position Management Branch, Room 4350
 Attention: Cheryl R. Jenkins
 650 Massachusetts Ave NW
 Washington, DC 20226
 (202) 927-8630 TDD users call (202) 927-7941.

TO FIND OUT ABOUT OTHER JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & FIREARMS, CALL (202) 927-8423.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

ALL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE CONSIDERATION REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, POLITICS, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RELIGION,

OR ANY OTHER NONMERIT REASON.